

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BLANTY 01421 301705Z

63

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-03 EUR-08 L-01 SAM-01 EB-03 PRS-01

RSC-01 /050 W

----- 039533

R 301420Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7484

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1421

LIMDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

FROM ASST SECY EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, RH, SF

SUBJ: RHODESIA SEEN FROM WITHIN

SUMMARY: FIRST SEVEN PARAGRAPHS BELOW CONTAIN MAJOR POINTS
CONCERNING RHODESIAN SITUATION MADE TO ME OCTOBER 29 IN BLANTYRE
BY SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST ANTHONY RIDER, RESIDENT FOR PAST FOUR
AND HALF YEARS IN SALISBURY. RIDER WRITES FOR SIX SOUTH AFRICAN
NEWSPAPERS. WHEREAS EMBASSY PRETORIA FAR BETTER PLACED TO JUDGE
HIS CREDIBILITY AS AN OBSERVER, HE IMPRESSED ME FAVORABLY. USIS
BLANTYRE CONSIDERS HIM HONEST AND PERCEPTIVE. IN SUMMARY, HE VIEWS
CONTINUED WHITE MAJORITY RULE AS DOOMED BUT MOST RHODESIANS DON'T
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BLANTY 01421 301705Z

YET REALIZE THEIR PLIGHT. PARAGRAPHS EIGHT AND NINE CONTAIN

ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON RHODESIA BY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAWI
AND BY RHODESIAN ANC LEADERS.

1. RHODESIANS GENERALLY AND SMITH IN PARTICULAR GIVE NO SIGNS OF
RECOGNIZING HANDWRITING ON THE WALL. RHODESIAN MILITARY'S MONTHLY
ON-SITE BRIEFINGS AND TOURS GIVEN TO SALISBURY PRESS CORPS RECENTLY
INDICATE GROWING RHODESIAN CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO CONTAIN
INSURGENCY IN NORTH AND EAST. REBEL BANDS RARELY CONTAIN MORE THAN
TWENTY MEMBERS, WITH ELEVEN BEING THE USUAL NUMBER, AND MANY
OF THEM DROP THEIR WEAPONS AND RUN WHEN THEY
ENCOUNTER RHODESIAN FORCES. THEY CONTINUE TO BE RECRUITED
IN URBAN AREAS, HOWEVER, OFTEN BY AGENTS WORKING AS BUS DRIVERS.

2. NONETHELESS, WHEN VIEWED AGAINST TRADITIONAL RHODESIAN BELIEF
THAT IF WORST CAME TO WORST RHODESIA COULD STILL COUNT ON SOUTH
AFRICAN MILITARY SUPPORT, RECENT STATEMENTS BY VORSTER, BOTHA
AND KRUGER CANNOT HELP BUT SHAKE SMITH REGIME'S CONFIDENCE IN ITS
FUTURE. HOWEVER, AVERAGE RHODESIAN NOT PERMITTED TO LEARN MUCH ABOUT
CHANGING SOUTH AFRICAN POSTURE SINCE RHODESIAN PRESS CARRYING
VIRTUALLY NOTHING ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. FRELIMO POSITION ON WHETHER TO APPLY ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON
RHODESIA WILL BE CRITICAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING PACE OF POLITICAL
EVOLUTION WITHIN RHODESIA. BEIRA-UMTALI RAILROAD UMBILICUS OFFERS
FRELIMO UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY APPLY SUCH PREEESSURE. WITH THAT
LINE PRODUCINNG THREE-FOURTH'S OF MOZAMBIQUE'S TOTAL RAILWAY INCOME,
COMPLETE SHUTDOWN WAS NOT LIKELY. EVEN A TEN PERCENT REDUCTION OF
TRAFFIC, HOWEVER, WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE RHODESIAN ECONOMY, AS
WOULD HARRASSMENT BY SPORADIC SHUTDOWNS, DELAYS, RESTRICTIONS,
ETC. ALTERNATIVE OF SHIPPING THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD REQUIRE
UNACCEPTABLE EXTRA EXPENSE.

4. RHODESIAN MILITARY ARE OPENLY CONTEMPTUOUS OF SOUTH AFRICAN
POLICE ASSIGNED TO THEIR UNITS. THE SOUTH AFRICANS KNOW THIS,
WHICH MAKES MATTERS WORSE. FORMER GENERALLY WELL-EDUCATED WHICH
CONTRIBUTES FURTHER TO LACK OF RAPPORT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTER-
PARTS. RECENT UNPUBLICIZED REPORT (WHICH RIDER BELIEVES TO
BE TRUE) OF BAYONETTING OF AFRICAN BABY BY TWO SOUTH AFRICAN
POLICE HAS ADDITIONALLY COMPLICATED AN ALREADY INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
RELATIONSHIP. SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE NO LONGER SO WILLING BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BLANTY 01421 301705Z

ASSIGNED TO RHODESIA BECAUSE OF THIS AND BECAUSE THEY INCREASINGLY
OBLIGED PERFORM REAL ANTI-GUERRILLA DUTY RATHER THAN SHOOT
GAME AND GENERALLY GOOF OFF. THESE ARE SOME OF REASONS FOR KRUGER'S
RECENT DECISION THAT REGULAR POLICE ASSGINMENTS TO RHODESIA
WILL BE PHASED OUT BUT THAT VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

5. BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS IN SALISBURY ARE COURAGEOUS
AND CRITICAL CONCERNING EVENTS AND ATTITUDES IN RHODESIA,

BUT RHODESIAN PRESS IS HOPELESS.

6. BYRD AMENDMENT REPEAL, WHILE A SMALL THING IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECT PER SE ON THE RHODESIAN ECONOMY, WOULD HAVE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL REPERCUSSIONS ON RHODESIAN SOCIETY. JUBILATION GREETED THE AMENDMENT IN 1971, IT BEING CITED AS PROOF OF THE RIGHTNESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE WHITE RHODESIAN CAUSE. ITS REPEAL NOW COULD HAVE EQUAL COUNTERVAILING EFFECT.

7. THE ANC WILL NOT SETTLE FOR ANY BARGAIN THAT DOES NOT PRODUCE PARITY NOW AND MAJORITY REPRESENTATION WITHIN FIVE YEARS. THEY WILL NOT SIT DOWN WITH SMITH IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE CHAIRS AND WHERE HE PLAYS ROLE OF BOTH LITIGANT AND JUDGE. NOR WILL THEY AGREE TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT PROMISE OF RELEASE OF ANC MEMBERS NOW IN JAIL.

KAUNDA IS PUSHING THEM TO DEMAND RELEASE OF ZANU AND ZAPU LEADERS AS ADDITIONAL PRECONDITION.

8. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAWI KENNETH RITCHIE TOLD ME THAT BANDA HAS BEEN MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND COUNSEL TO ANC. BANDA BELIEVES MUZOREWA HOLDS KEY TO RHODESIA FUTURE. HE IS ACCORDINGLY URGING OTHER ANC LEADERS, WHOM HE SEES PERIODICALLY, TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT KEEP ANC SOLID AND UNITED BEHIND MUZOREWA'S LEADERSHIP. RITCHIE SHARES RIDER'S VIEW OF MUZOREWA AS A DIFFICULT, SECRETIVE, AND DISORGANIZED KIND OF PERSON WHO MAY NEVER HAVE WEOLCOMED THE RESPONSIBILITIES HE NOW CALLED UPON TO ACCEPT. (I RECALL PROFESSOR HUTCHINSON GAVE US SIMILAR ANALYSIS.) RITCHIE SAYS UK HAS NOT YET SENT SPECIAL ENVOY TO SALISBURY BUT STILL CONSIDERING IT. (ALAN CAMPBELL TOLD ME OF THIS PLANNED VENTURE WHEN I SAW HIM IN LONDON LAST SPRING.)

9. AT STATE HOUSE RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONIAL OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, I HAD CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH ANC OFFICIALS DR. ELLIOTT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BLANTY 01421 301705Z

GEBELLAH (DEPUTY PRESIDENT), DR. GORDON CHAVUNDUKA (SECRETARY GENERAL), REV HENRY KACHIDJA, AND AN UNIDENTIFIED "SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS." AT THEIR REQUEST I BRIEFED THEM ON US POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA, ABOUT WHICH THEY SEEMED GENERALLY IGNORANT. THEY WERE CLEARLY WELL FAMILIAR WITH THE VORSTER AND BOTHA STATEMENTS, WHICH THEY SAID THEY FOUND VERY ENCOURAGING. THEY WERE ALSO GRATIFIED BY KAUNDA'S FORTHCOMING REACTION. THEY URGED BYRD AMENDMENT REPEAL, WHICH THEY SAID COULD COME AT NO BETTER TIME FOR BEST EFFECT IN BRINGING SMITH TO HIS SENSES AND CONTRIBUTING THEREBY TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS. (THEY WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HUTCHINSON.)
STEVENSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BLANTY01421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740310-0616
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974108/aaaaaghu.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA SEEN FROM WITHIN SUMMARY: FIRST SEVEN PARAGRAPHS BELOW CONTAIN MAJOR POINTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, RH, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005